

U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/715,984
Amendment dated August 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2004

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 646-04-PA

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is submitted in response to the office action mailed May 19, 2004.
Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 were examined. Claims 1-3, 9, and 10 were rejected as unpatentable over US 6,609,852 – Wimberger. Claims 4-8 and 11-14 were objected to as depending from rejected base claims, but were held to define patentable subject matter.

In response to the office action, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 5 and 12, respectively. Claims 5 and 12 have been canceled as superfluous. Therefore, claims 1 and 9, as amended, should now be allowable, along with dependent claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13, and 14.

New claims 15-26 have been added. Claim 15 presents the allowable subject matter of claim 4 in independent form, and should therefore be allowable. Claims 16-18 depend from claim 15, and should be allowed therewith. Claim 19 presents the allowable subject matter of claim 11 in independent form, and should therefore be allowable, along with claims 20 and 21 which depend from it. Claim 22 presents the allowable subject matter of claim 6 in independent form, and should therefore be allowable along with claims 23 and 24 which depend from it. Claim 25 presents the allowable subject matter of claim 13 in independent form and should therefore be allowable, along with claim 26 which depends from it.

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In summary, claims 1-4, 6-11, 13, and 14, as amended, should now be allowable over the art of record, as should new claims 15-26. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested, and passage of the application to issue is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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